

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2128
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN
- CAIRO AND "UNITY" OF SAUDI-EGYPTIAN VIEWS

SUMMARY. COMMENTING ON HODDING CARTER'S EXPRESSION OF
DISAPPOINTMENT, PRESS PUTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SADAT
REJECTION OF FURTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS ON SHOULDERS
OF ISRAELIS AND ADVISES U.S. TO DO LIKEWISE. PRESS HIGH-
LIGHTED UNITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT IN
REPORTING SADAT-FAHD MEETING. THIS PROBABLY PRESAGES
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FURTHER EFFORT FOR ARAB RECONCILIATION. EDITORIALS
BLAME BEGIN VIEWS FOR IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS, GUMHURIYYA
NOTING IT WAS NECESSARY FOR EGYPT TO GIVE HIM "ELECTRIC
SHOCK" WITH DECISION TO CUT CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DISAPPOINTMENT. AHRAH AUGUST 1 HEADLINED HODDING
CARTER'S "STRANGE" STATEMENT OF U.S. DISAPPOINTMENT THAT

EGYPT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER ROUND OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. COMMENTING ON SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS, PRESS ARGUED THAT IT IS BEGIN'S DECISIONS WHICH ARE DISAPPOINTING, PARTICULARLY HIS "SOMETHING FOR NOTHING" REFERENCE TO EL ARISH PROPOSAL. AHRAH CONCLUDED SPOKESMAN "MIS-UNDERSTOOD"; HIS REMARKS TERMED "DISAPPOINTING." AKHBAR TOOK SIMILAR LINE, SAYING IF THERE ANYTHING DISAPPOINTING IN PEACE PROCESS "LET AMERICA LOOK FOR IT IN TEL AVIV, NOT IN CAIRO." GUMHURIYYA, IN REPLY TO ISRAELI REPORTS THAT SADAT WANTS TO WITHDRAW INITIATIVE, REPEATED PRESIDENT WOULD NOT ABANDON THIS.

2. SADAT-FAHD TALKS. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED SADAT AND FAHD MEETING, CLAIMING UNITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN TWO STATES. ACCORDING SADAT, "ARAB LINE IS ONE AND CLEAR-CUT." ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARAB SUMMIT, SADAT DUCKED, INVITING PRESS MAKE ITS OWN PREDICTIONS. EDITORIALY, AHRAH SUGGESTED SADAT-FAHD TALKS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE." SAUDI ARABIA HAS "FUNDAMENTAL AND VITAL ROLE," ESPECIALLY WITH REFERENCE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH AMERICA. AMERICA, "NOW THAT IT HAS FAILED AS MEDIATOR," SHOULD PLAY ROLE OF FULL PARTNER. (COMMENT: SAUDI-EGYPTIAN "UNITY" UNDOUBTEDLY PRESAGES FURTHER EFFORT AT ARAB RECONCILIATION.)

3. BEGIN. AKHBAR CLAIMED PRINCIPAL IMPASSE TO NEGOTIALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS IS BEGIN'S VIEW THAT EXPANSION IS ONLY WAY TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH SECURITY. GUMHURIYYA SAID BEGIN'S "OLD MENTALITY" FORCED EGYPT GIVE HIM "ELECTRIC SHOCK" IN FORM OF DECISION TO CUT OFF ALL CONTACT UNTIL "POSITIVE ELEMENTS" FORTHCOMING. EILTS

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